



Introduction to ForeverGreen Trails (FGT)

About FGT: Our mission is to support the development of a unified system of trails throughout Pierce County, WA, via education, advocacy, promotion, and collaboration. We do this through our programs, events, and projects, which:

- Educate and involve the public and create partnerships (Trails & Ales and Trails & Tales)
- Foster networking, discussion, and training (Pierce County Trails Conference)
- Recognize and celebrate achievements (Trail Awards)
- Help raise funds to support trail grant applications (Trail Accelerator Program)
- Provide a forum for local jurisdictions and other stakeholders to foster coordination and accelerated trail development (our board and coalition work)

History Brief: In 2000, FGT arose out of a public discussion about Pierce County's future and concerns about having recreational resources for a growing population. It quickly evolved to focus on a county-wide system of trails and provided a forum for jurisdictions to develop a regional trail map and an implementation strategy. This strategy included the provision of technical staff and resources to support trail planning and development at the local level. This ambitious approach was not pursued, however, because the mechanism to fund it (a fraction of a percentage of sales tax) was not enabled by the Legislature. The organization instead pursued public promotion of and education about trails, and support for implementing the regional trails system through involvement as a trails stakeholder in public processes and in active recreation and mobility coalitions. More recently, FGT overhauled its structure and became a membership organization, and started offering technical and fundraising services that provide compensation for staff time.

Organizational Structure:

- **The Board** establishes standing or temporary committees per the Bylaws. Certain powers are reserved for the Board alone. The Board meets a minimum of six times a year. It has the following standing committees:
 - **The Executive Committee (EC)** may act on behalf of the Board on time-sensitive issues but must report those actions at the next Board meeting. The Board annually elects its Officers who serve on the Executive Committee. The EC usually meets on months the Board does not. Because of their special powers, their charter is reviewed annually by the Board.
 - **The Organizational Development Committee (ODC)** provides financial and human resource development assistance for the Board. It is a standing committee that meets regularly.

- **The Event & Programming Committee (EPC)** handles the structure and logistics for the annual fall conference. It also provides guidance for our other annual and special events.
- **The Outreach & Communications Committee (OCC)** handles our external storytelling and promotion. It does this primarily through our social media channels.
- **The Executive Director (ED)** is hired by the Board and staffs all committees. The ED's work is overseen by the EC. The ED tends to be in frequent communication with the President and committee chairs even outside of meetings.